

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A communications system for providing broadband access to passengers of mobile platforms, comprising:
 - a router located on said mobile platform;
 - a network connected to said router;~~and~~
 - user communication devices (UCDs) connected to said network, wherein said UCDs ~~establish~~ establishing point-to-point over Ethernet (PPPoE) sessions with said router;
 - a transmitter on said mobile platform, said transmitter being connected to said router;
 - a receiver on said mobile platform, said receiver being connected to said router;
 - a satellite in communication with said transmitter and said receiver of said mobile platform;
 - a ground station in communication with said satellite;
 - a distributed communications system connected to said ground station;
 - a virtual private network (VPN) connected to said distributed communications system;

a first address manager connected to said ground station, said first address manager leasing use of public Internet Protocol (IP) addresses by said mobile platform;

said router including a second address manager communicating with said first address manager to lease said public IP addresses for said mobile platform.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Currently Amended) The communications system of claim 3-1 wherein said distributed communications system is the Internet.

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Currently Amended) The communications system of claim 6-1, wherein said second address manager ~~assigns~~ assigning said public IP addresses when said UCDs request access to said VPN.

8. (Currently Amended) The communications system of claim 7, wherein said second address manager ~~assigns~~ assigning private IP addresses to said UCDs for at least one network service provided by said mobile platform.

9. (Currently Amended) The communications system of claim 5-1, wherein said UCDs ~~employ~~ employing IPSec security protocol when communicating with said VPN.

10. (Currently Amended) A communications system for allowing passengers of mobile platforms to access virtual private networks (VPNs), comprising:

a network on said mobile platform ~~that communicates~~ communicating with a ground station via a satellite, ~~wherein said ground station is~~ being connected to a virtual private network (VPN);

user communication devices (UCDs) connected to said network; and

a first address manager connected to said network, said first address manager ~~that assigns~~ being operable to enable public internet protocol (IP) addresses to be assigned when said UCDs request a connection to said VPN, said first address manager ~~and that assigns~~ enabling assigning private IP addresses for at least one other network service, said first address manager assigning said public and private addresses without requiring said UCDs to reboot.

11. (Currently Amended) The communications system of claim 10 further comprising:

a router connected to said UCDs and to enable said first address manager, ~~wherein said UCDs establish~~ establishing point-to-point over Ethernet (PPPoE) sessions with said router.

12. (Currently Amended) The communications system of claim 10 further comprising:

a second address manager₁ connected to said ground station and a distributed communications system, ~~wherein said second address manager leases~~ for enabling a leasing of use of said public Internet Protocol (IP) IP addresses to said mobile platform.

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Original) A public address manager for a broadband communications system for mobile platforms, comprising:

a network on said mobile platform that communicates with a ground station via a satellite;

user communication devices (UCDs) connected to said network;

a first address manager associated with said mobile platform that requests a public address block for said mobile platform; and

a second public address manager associated with said ground station that leases said public address block to said first address manager.

15. (Currently Amended) The public address manager of claim 14, ~~wherein said first address manager periodically transmits~~ enabling periodic transmission of a lease maintenance message to said second address manager.

16. (Currently Amended) The public address manager of claim 15, ~~wherein said second address manager includes~~ including a lease timer, enabling termination of

~~that terminates~~ said lease if said lease timer expires before said lease maintenance message is received.

17. (Currently Amended) A method for operating a communications system that provides broadband access to passengers of mobile platforms, comprising the steps of:

locating a router on said mobile platform;

connecting a network to said router;

connecting user communication devices (UCDs) to said network; and

establishing point-to-point over Ethernet (PPPoE) sessions between said UCDs and said router;

connecting a transmitter to said router;

connecting a receiver to said router;

communicating with a satellite and a ground station that is connected to a distributed communications system using said transmitter and said receiver of said mobile platform, said distributed communications system connecting to a virtual private network (VPN);

managing use of public address blocks using a first address manager; and

requesting said public address blocks using a second address manager associated with said mobile platform.

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~19~~17 wherein said distributed communications system is the Internet.

21. (Cancelled)

22. (Cancelled)

23. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~22~~17 further comprising the step of:

assigning ~~said~~ public IP addresses to said UCDs when said UCDs request access to said VPN.

24. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 23 further comprising the step of:

assigning private IP addresses to said UCDs for a network service.

25. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~24~~17 wherein said UCD employs IPSec security protocol when communicating with said VPN.

26. (Currently Amended) A method for allowing passengers of mobile platforms to access virtual private networks (VPNs), comprising ~~the steps of:~~

- providing a network on said mobile platform;
- connecting user communication devices (UCDs) to said network; and
- providing a first address manager on said network that assigns public internet protocol (IP) addresses to said UCDs when said UCDs request access to said VPNs; and

using said first address manager to assign private IP addresses for a service provided by said network, said public and private addresses being assigned without requiring said UCDs to reboot.

27. (Cancelled)

28. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~27~~26 further comprising ~~the steps of:~~

- connecting a router to said UCDs and to said first address manager; and
- establishing point-to-point over Ethernet (PPPoE) sessions between said UCDs and said router.

29. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 28 further comprising ~~the steps of:~~

- connecting a second address manager (PAM) to a ground station; and

leasing use of said public Internet Protocol (IP) IP addresses to said first address manager using said second address manager.

30. (Cancelled)

31. (New) A communications system for providing broadband access to passengers of mobile platforms, comprising:

- a router located on said mobile platform;
- a network connected to said router;
- user communication devices (UCDs) connected to said network;
- a ground station in communication with said mobile platform; and
- a first address manager connected to said ground station that leases use of public Internet Protocol (IP) addresses by said mobile platform, said router including a second address manager enabling communication with said first address manager to lease public IP addresses for said mobile platform.

32. (New) The communications system of claim 31, wherein said UCDs are connected to said router by point-to-point over Ethernet (PPPoE) sessions.

33. (New) The communications system of claim 31 further comprising:

- a transmitter on said mobile platform that is connected to said router; and
- a receiver on said mobile platform that is connected to said router.

34. (New) The communications system of claim 31 further comprising:

- a satellite in communication with said mobile platform; and
- a distributed communications system connected to said ground station.

35. (New) The communications system of claim 34, said distributed communications system comprising a wide area network.

36. (New) The communications system of claim 34, further comprising:
a virtual private network (VPN) connected to said distributed communications system.

37. (New) The communications system of claim 36, said second address manager enabling the assignment of said public IP addresses if said UCDs request access to said VPN.

38. (New) The communications system of claim 37, said second address manager enabling assignment of private IP addresses to said UCDs for at least one network service provided by said mobile platform.

39. (New) The communications system of claim 36, said UCDs comprising IPSec security protocol when communicating with said VPN.